



United States Senate
**Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship**

Olympia J. Snowe, Chair

Monday, October 18, 2005
<http://sbc.senate.gov>

For Immediate Release:
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**SNOWE REQUEST TO EXTEND HURRICANE DISASTER LOAN
DEADLINE HONORED**

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe, Chair of the United States Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, today applauded the Federal government for agreeing to her request to extend the application deadline for disaster assistance in the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. The deadline has been extended to January 11, 2006.

“The Federal government’s disaster programs are critical for rebuilding homes and businesses, providing employment for the hundreds of thousands who have been temporarily displaced, and redeveloping devastated communities. If the deadline for disaster assistance were not extended, many individuals and businesses, who are just beginning to rebuild, would not have been eligible for loans or other relief,” said Senator Snowe.

“The damage from Hurricane Katrina will continue long after the floodwaters recede and the levees are reconstructed,” stated Snowe. “With the SBA and FEMA at the forefront of the massive relief effort, we must strengthen their resources to help the people of the Gulf area return to a normal way of life so they can once again see their businesses prosper.”

Senator Snowe noted that she has recently introduced the Small Business Hurricane Relief and Reconstruction Act of 2005 (S.1807), which, among other things, would extend the deadline for applying for Federal disaster loans until one year after the President designates the applicants’ county or parish as a disaster area as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

Last week Senator Snowe and Senator David Vitter (R-Louisiana) wrote SBA Administrator Hector Barreto and FEMA Acting Director R. David Paulison urging him to extend the deadline. A copy of the Snowe-Vitter letter is attached.